



NEWS RELEASE

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NEBRASKA STUDENTS NAMED NATIONAL SkillsUSA AWARD WINNERS

Nebraska students who earned top 10 awards in the National SkillsUSA competition were named today by SkillsUSA Nebraska.

About 190 Nebraska students and advisors attended the 50th National Leadership and Skills Conference, sponsored by SkillsUSA, June 23 - 27 in Kansas City, MO. More than 6,100 students from 52 states and territories competed in 99 occupational and leadership skill areas.

SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry representatives; working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce and helps each student to excel. The national and state organization serves trade, industrial, technical and health occupation students in high schools and college/technical schools. SkillsUSA programs also help to establish industry standards for job skill training in the classroom.

Zach Pechacek, a student at Metropolitan Community College-Omaha and a past SkillsUSA Nebraska State Officer, completed his term as a College/Technical National Officer. Pechacek lives in Bellevue.

Top Ten Award Winners are:

- 1st Place - Gold medalists
 - Jonathan Hermann, Alex Schincke, Joel Ramirez and Ben Stigge of Metropolitan Community College, Omaha – College/Technical Division TeamWorks
 - Ian Bridge, Nadezdha Hughes, Katei Hunt, Taylor Kramer, Tanner Malmkar, Sydney McGahan and Sarah Meyer of North Platte High School, North Platte – High School Division Opening and Closing Ceremonies
- 2nd Place – Silver medalists
 - Samuel Lindblad of Adams Central High School, Hastings – High School Division Job Skill Demonstration Open
 - Megan Runyan of Seward High School, Seward – High School Division Prepared Speech
- 3rd Place – Bronze medalists

- Katryna Booth-Malnack of Millard Horizon High School, Millard – High School Division Medical Terminology
 - Charles Fritz III of Metropolitan Community College, Omaha – College/Technical Division Electrical Construction Wiring
 - Erica Goracke, Tara Hesterman and Thomas Tucker of Sterling High School, Sterling – High School Division Career Pathways Showcase, Natural Resources
 - Gerald McNerney of Metropolitan Community College, Omaha – College/Technical Division Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVACR)
 - Cale Miller of Seward High School, Seward – High School Division Extemporaneous Speaking
 - Jerrod Whittaker of Gretna High School, Gretna – High School Division Mobile Electronics Installation
- 4th Place
- Jose De La Cruz and Amber Grezer of Metropolitan Community College, Omaha – College/Technical Division Digital Cinema Production
 - Luke Glesinger of Metropolitan Community College, Omaha – College/Technical Division Firefighting
 - Brent Jackson and Tim Martin of Metropolitan Community College, Omaha – College/Technical Division Mechatronics
 - Derick Marshall of Metropolitan Community College, Omaha – College/Technical Division Action Skills
- 5th Place
- Rachel Von Flange of Wayne State College, Wayne – College/Technical Division Welding Sculpture
- 6th Place
- Ashley Beall of Central Community College-Hastings – College/Technical Division Job Interview
 - Daniel Finker and Thomas Pascarelli of Metropolitan Community College, Omaha – College/Technical Division Audio/Radio Production
 - Josh Garner of York High School, York – High School Division Medical Assisting
 - Jammie Snyder of Metropolitan Community College-Omaha – College/Technical Division Prepared Speech
- 7th Place
- Jack Larson and Roland Massow of Metropolitan Community College, Omaha – College/Technical Division Television/Video Production
 - Cheyenne Wessel of Millard Horizon High School, Millard – High School Division Health Occupations Professional Portfolio
- 8th Place

- Leroy Martensen and Mike Boeding of Columbus High School, Columbus – High School Division Mechatronics
- Matt Rohman of Norris High School, Firth – High School Division Related Technical Math
- Talia Seymore of Millard Horizon High School, Millard – High School Division Commercial Baking
- 9th Place
 - Nathan Clausen of Wayne State College, Wayne – College/Technical Division Carpentry
 - Craig Colton, Joe Pascoe and Colton Thompson of North Platte High School, North Platte – High School Division Welding Fabrication
 - Taylor Hermann of Weeping Water High School, Weeping Water – High School Division First Aid-CPR
- 10th Place
 - John Higgins of Wayne State College, Wayne – College/Technical Division Cabinetmaking
 - Todd Koehly of Metropolitan Community College, Omaha – College/Technical Division Sheet Metal
 - Jacob Lewis of Metropolitan Community College, Omaha – College/Technical Division Collision Repair Technology
 - Dylan Ortegren of Southeast Community College, Lincoln – College/Technical Division Motorcycle Service Technology
 - Andrew Rutt of Hastings High School, Hastings – High School Division CNC Turning

SkillsUSA provides quality education experiences for students in leadership, teamwork, citizenship and character development. The state and national organization builds and reinforces self-confidence, work attitudes and communication skills. The association emphasizes total quality at work, high ethical standards, superior work skills, life-long education, and pride in the dignity of work. SkillsUSA also promotes understanding of the free enterprise system and involvement in community service activities.